

Message Text

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10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 260910Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1002

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOU 0234

EXDIS

DEPT PASSS USCINCEUR AND OSN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ET

SUBJECT: CISCO III

REF: STATE 018849

1. REFTEL USEFUL IN SPELLING OUT PROPOSED SCENARIO
FOR HANDLING RELEASE CISCO III. HOWEVER, WE FEEL STRONGLY IT
SHOULD BE MODIFIED ON FOLLOWING TWO POINTS.

2. COMMENT (PARA 7 REFTEL) THAT "APPROPRIATE" STATEMENT WILL
BE ISSUED ONCE ALL REPEAT ALL AMERICANS HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY
ERITREANS REPRESENTS NOT ONLY DEPARTURE FROM PAST DEPARTMENT
POSITION BUT ALSO DEVIATION FROM UNDERSTANDING WE WERE
AUTHORIZED CONVEY THROUGH GOS TO ELF. AS STATED PARA
2, STATE 258218 OF OCTOBER 31, 1975, STATEMENT WAS TO HAVE
BEEN MADE "ON RELEASE OF KAGNEW II". THIS OBVIOUSLY COULD
NOT HAVE BEEN DONE WITH ELF STILL HOLDING MICHALKE BUT, AS
INDICATED PARA 3 STATE 007741, DEPARTMENT
RECENTLY REAFFIRMED FOLLOWING RELEASE KAGNEW II THAT
IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE THE PUBLIC STATEMENT PROMISED
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LAST OCTOBER "UPON THE SAFE RELEASE OF MICHALKE". BECAUSE

OF LACK OF ELF CONTROL OVER PLF, PLUS CONTINUING RISK TO OTHER AMERICANS IN ASMARA IF WE DO NOT DO WHAT WE INDICATED WE WOULD DO, I URGE THAT WE RELEASE ST1.3,5 034 0-4- 2 STATE 258218 AS SOON AS ALL AMERICANS UNDER ELF REPEAT ELF CONTROL HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

3. ONLY OTHER PROBLEM RELATES TO DURATION RELEASED MEN'S POSSIBLE STAY KHARTOUM IF THEY ARE TO BE JOINED BY BAKER AND MRS. HARRELL. IF FLIGHT SCHEDULES PERMIT BAKER AND MRS. HARRELL JOIN RELEASED MEN HERE WITHIN 24 HOURS, THIS OBVIOUSLY BEST COURSE. HOWEVER, QUESTION WHETHER WE SHOULD HOLD RELEASED MEN KHARTOUM FOR SEVERAL DAYS SOLELY IN ORDER PERMIT BAKER AND MRS. HARRELL JOIN THEM HERE. PRESS INTEREST WHICH WE AGREE SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM INCREASES THE LONGER HOSTAGES REMAIN IN ONE PLACE. WE THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO HOW LONG DEPT MAY WISH US RETAIN RESRELEASED HOSTAGES ON USG PREMISES KHARTOUM AS OPPOSED TO SENDING THEM ON RAPIDLY TO FRANKFURT (ON ASSUMPTION THERE NO MEDICAL PROBLEM WHICH WOULD MAKE SHUCH MOVE UNWISE). TO COVER THIS EVENTUALITY, EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT USE IT, SUGGEST DEPT COLLECT FUNDS FROM CISCO AND PROVIDE US FISCAL DATA ON CONTINGENCY BASIS SO THAT AIRLINE TICKETS COULD BE PURCHASED IMMEDIATELY. BREWER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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